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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by the Foundation Alvaralice, a non-governmental organization working in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-33472 (E) 220506

Statement

Founded in 2003, Fundación Alvaralice is a family organization based in Cali, Colombia. The mission of the foundation is to promote alliances on the local, national and international levels in the areas of income-generation, education, health care and peacebuilding, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable members of the population, these being predominantly women and children.

Colombia is making serious strides towards addressing the grievances and needs of the many victims of the ongoing conflict and the resulting internally displaced population, currently estimated to be around 3 million. An additional challenge of this situation is to generate opportunities for the former combatants looking to re-enter society, and provide them with the income-generating opportunities they will need to be self-sufficient and deter their return to their former life.

Alvaralice is directing its efforts at the reduction of poverty through the promotion of income-generating activities, and tangentially promoting gender equality and empowering women by giving them the same opportunities to become self-sufficient.

Working in conjunction with Fundación Paz y Bien — a grass-roots organization acting as the programme management agency — Alvaralice provides financial and technical support to the Alejandrina Chávez Center for Household Management, where women, most of them heads of households or internally displaced due to the internal conflict — receive training on knowledge and skills to properly address household issues. This training also includes issues of sexual and reproductive rights, and education regarding their legal rights, particularly in regards to their employment status.

The Foundation is also currently developing a long-term initiative to support the implementation of Law 975 — The Justice and Peace Law — passed last year by the Colombian Congress. As a result of this law, as many as 28,000 armed rebels could demobilize and will be looking to re-enter society. Simultaneously, the Law provides victims of the conflict with various measures of reparation and community reconciliation. In addition to facilitating the rebuilding of community relationships, one of the key aims of these Centers, to be established in the areas most affected by the conflict, will be to reinitiate successful agricultural activities that were interrupted or affected by the conflict, and promote the cultivation of agricultural products for self-sustainability and income generation.

The Foundation aims to support the measures that will promote peacebuilding and conflict resolution, which in turn support the achievement of several of the Millennium Goals. Colombia needs the support of the international community to continue in its efforts towards a long lasting peace.

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by the Peoples Decade for Human Rights Education, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-33478 (E) 220506

Statement

Human rights learning for full, productive and freely chosen employment

Creating an environment conducive to full employment is both a core social objective of sustainable human development and an imperative for human rights learning. The human right to work and full employment must be included in the learning about human rights at the community level. All people must know that full employment is directly related to the human right to work, defined by the ICESCR Covenant "the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his/her living by work which he/she freely chooses or accepts ..."

However, these rights do not address directly the matter of full employment.

From the human rights perspective, the ILO Convention No. 122 on Employment Policy, article 1 states ... along with lowering unemployment "each Member [state] shall promote full, productive and freely chosen employment. The policy shall aim at ensuring that: (a) There is work for all who are available for and seeking work; (b) Such work is as productive as possible; ... freedom of choice of employment ... --the fullest possible opportunity for each worker to qualify for a job irrespective of race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin ..."

There is a central role for governments to design and implement full employment policies. However, there is also a critical role for human rights learning for women and men to know and claim their human rights.

Learning at the community level develops understanding of human rights in order to build a community where citizens and migrant workers live in a society where they are not instruments of production but human rights holders; both the means and the end of sustainable development.

Through human rights learning communities equip themselves to evolve strategies for development that ensure an integrated approach to realizing all human rights. Human rights learning is of critical relevance to some of the most important issues on the current agenda of this ECOSOC NGO Forum. The specific strategy of human rights learning for full employment in sustainable development would include the following:

1. Assuring that claimants have:

   Knowledge, of

   - universal human rights and the mechanism for their promotion and protection;
   - human rights as relevant to employment and work and people's daily lives;
   - the interrelatedness of all human rights and poverty reduction strategies;
   - the relationships between the holistic human rights framework and the general normative purposes of full employment policies.

- ***Critical Awareness and systemic analysis skills*** to asses causes of poverty, under-employment and unemployment; demanding change from those responsible for their denial.

- ***Political Skills*** to assess the conditions that will bring change, organizing actions for achieving full employment.

2. Applying the ***critical pedagogy of popular education*** by learners analysing:

– *Conditions of deprivation*

– *Relevant human rights standards*

– What actions can civil society take to assist governments to use the human rights framework as a guideline to achieving full employment?

The knowledge, skills and awareness ought to provide the content of a worldwide popular human rights education and learning campaign.